

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in the instant application. In the Office Action dated February 23, 2005, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-44 are all allowable.

In addition to the annotated sheet of drawings and the replacement sheet of drawings included with this Amendment, the Applicants are hereby submitting the formalized version of all drawings included in the instant application.

Formal Matters

On page 2 of the Office Action dated February 23, 2005, the Examiner has indicated that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the features of a querying device, a comparator, and a path computing device are effectively shown in the flowchart of Fig. 6, as the flowchart illustrates steps which may be performed by each of those features. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have amended Fig. 3 to show a querying device, a comparator, and a path computing device as being included, in one embodiment, as a part of Node A 306a of Fig. 3. It is respectfully submitted that there is no new matter added to the drawings, as a querying device, a comparator, and a path computing device are clearly described in the Specification, as for example from page 6 at line 24 to page 7 at line 23.

The Examiner has requested that the word “substantially” be removed from the claims, specifically claims 1, 2, 10, 14, and 15, in order to make the limitations in the claims more positive. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 10, 14, and 15 to remove the term “substantially” in a sincere effort to expedite the prosecution of the instant application. The Applicants have interpreted the Examiner’s intent as being such that she would prefer that the Applicants remove the term “substantially” from all claims in which the term “substantially”

appears. To this end, in order to expediently further the prosecution of the instant application, the Applicants have also amended claims 19, 20, 26, and 27 to remove the term "substantially."

The Examiner has suggested that the recitation of "the computer readable medium" in claim 18 be changed to a recitation of "a computer readable medium." The Applicants respectfully decline to amend claim 18, as the Applicants believe the recitation of "the computer readable medium" is proper given that there is a recitation of "a computer readable medium" in claim 9 from which claim 18 depends. The Applicants believe that if claim 18 were to be amended to recite "a computer readable medium," there would be an issue with antecedent basis. As such, the Applicants have not amended claim 18.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8690.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

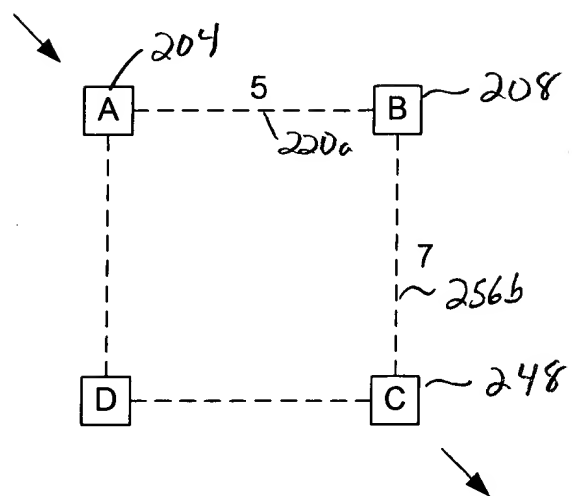
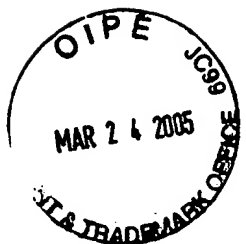


Fig. 2c

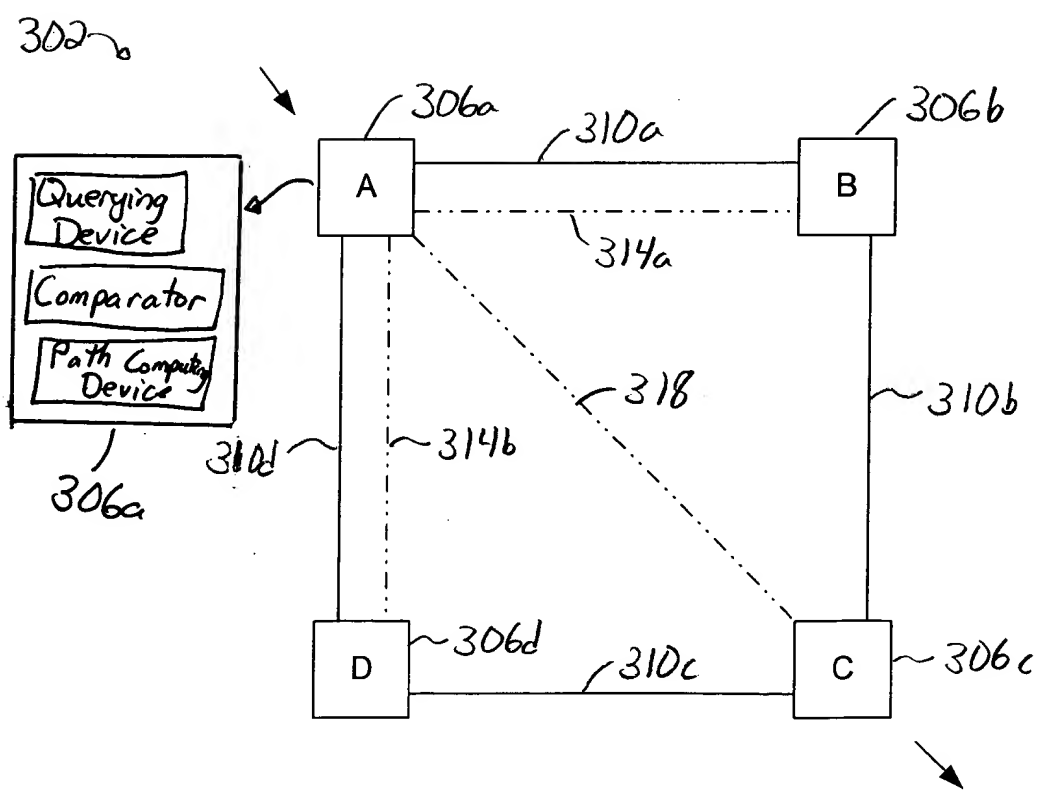


Fig. 3